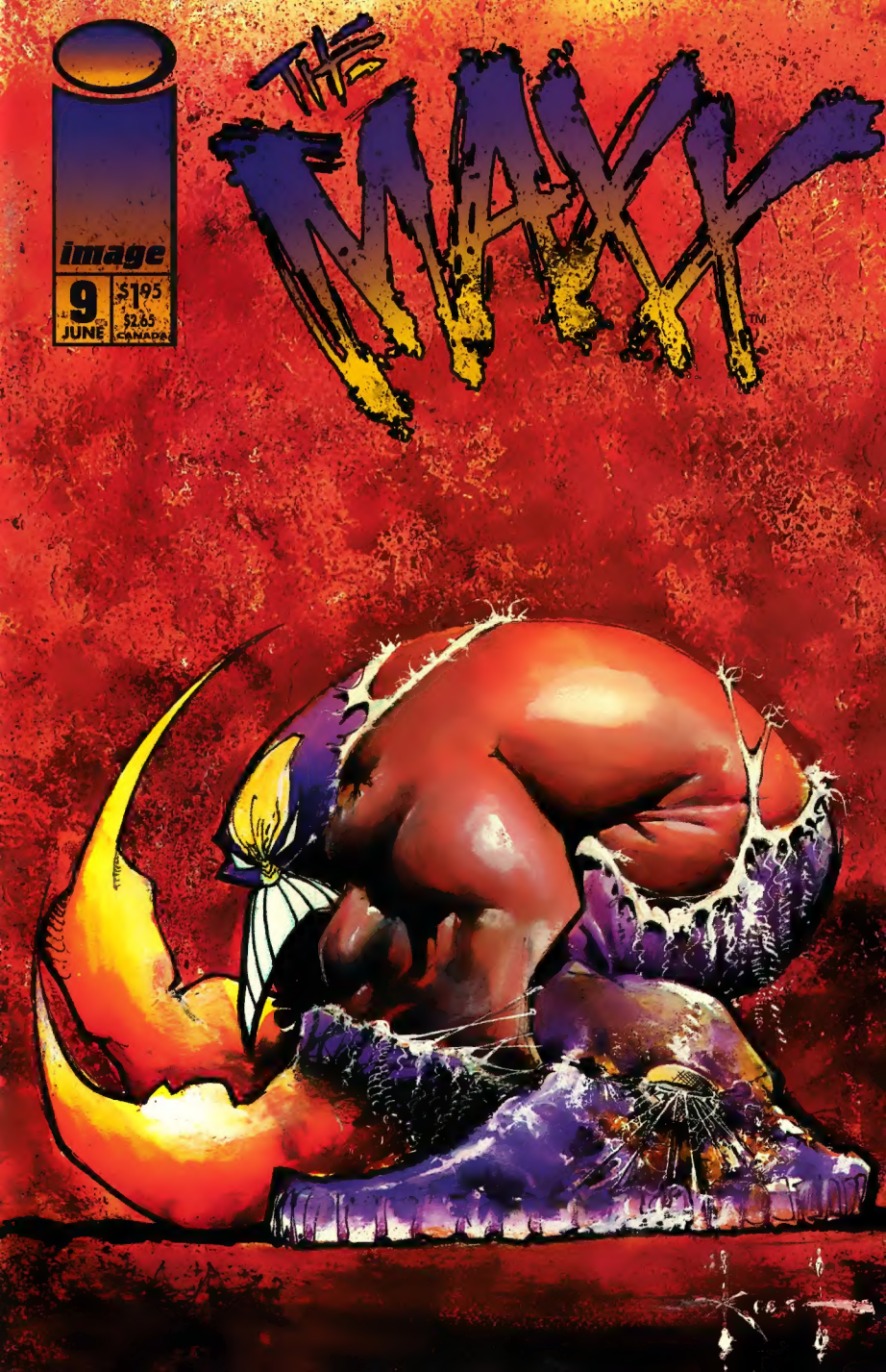
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COMICS PRESENTS

THE MAXX™

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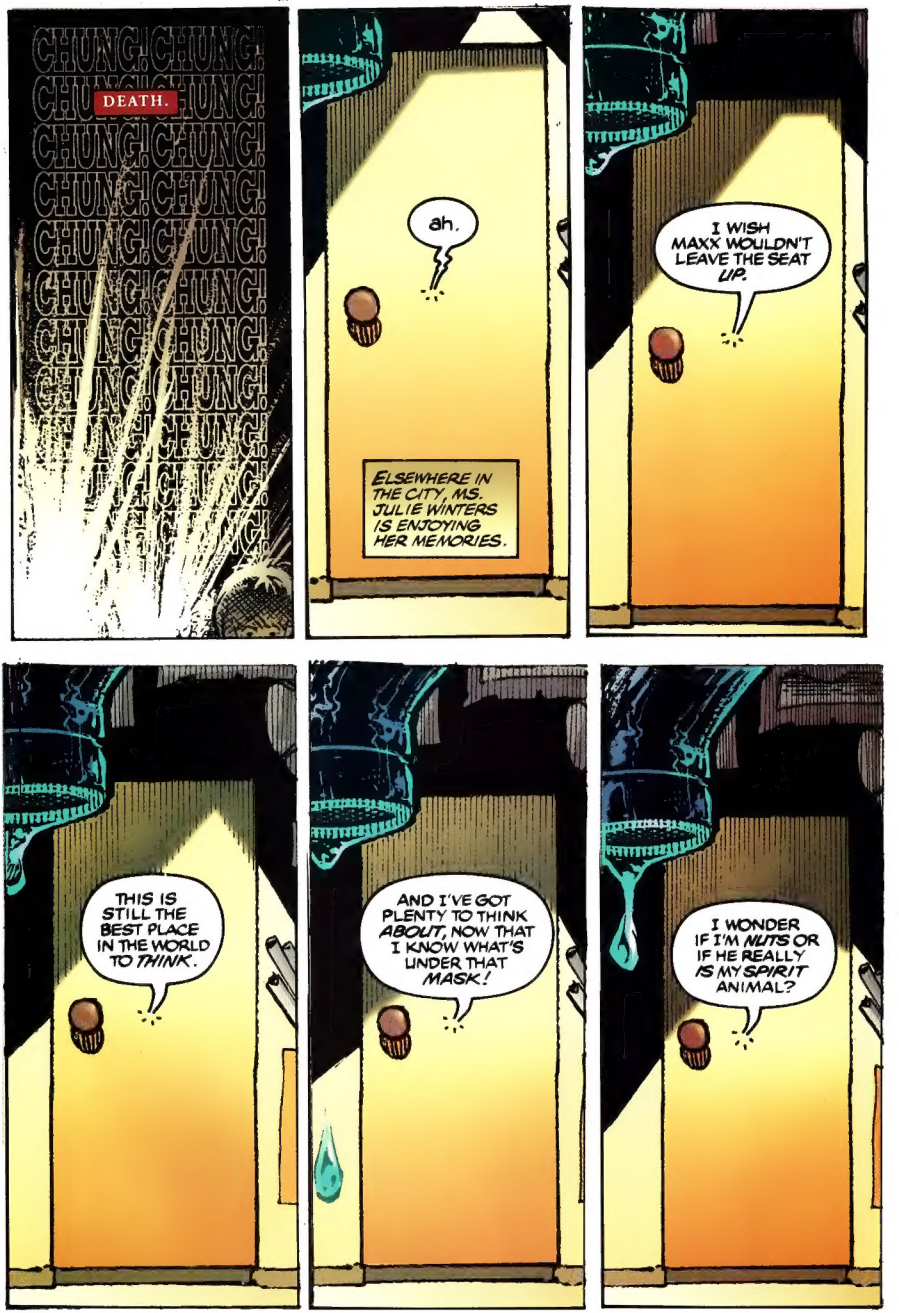
Printed in Canada

CLICK... WHIRRR... THIS IS A RECORDING...
HI YA, DOC.
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING WHY YOU'VE BEEN TIED UP, DRAGGED OUT OF THE MORGUE, CARRIED INTO THE BASEMENT OF THE ABANDONED BULLDOG JAR RUBBER FACTORY, THROUGH A BATHROOM DECORATED IN A COW MOTIF, AND ARE PRESENTLY IN THE DARK, SURROUNDED BY DARK BLUE, CANNIBALISTIC HOMUNCULI.
EVERYONE DOES.
MEEP
MEEP
MEEP
MEEP
MEEP

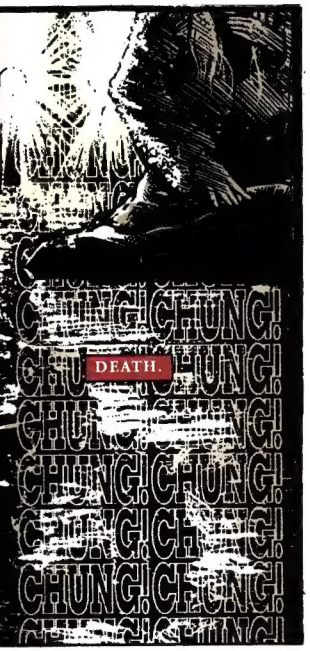
BUT FIRST, LEMMEE TELL YOU ABOUT A COUPLE OF THE OTHER THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING AROUND THIS WIDE-OPEN, GLORIOUS CITY WE CALL HOME...
GLORIE, ARE YOU COMING BACK TO SCHOOL THIS YEAR?
DUNNO.
THERE'S THERAPY AN' STUFF. I DON'T REALLY FEEL...SAFE ANYWHERE, Y'KNOW? NOT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AN' ALL...
WHO WOULD? AFTER ALL, YOU WERE MESSED UP PRETTY BAD BY THAT GUY...
MR. GONE. BOY, I WISH I C'D GET HOLD OF THAT SLIMEBALL! I'D BREAK HIS SPINE JUST LIKE SHADOWHAWK!
GRRR! ME TOO!
THANKS, GUYS, BUT...
HE'D JUST KILL YOU. HE'S TOO STRONG. I THOUGHT I WAS TOUGH, BUT I WAS NOTHING.

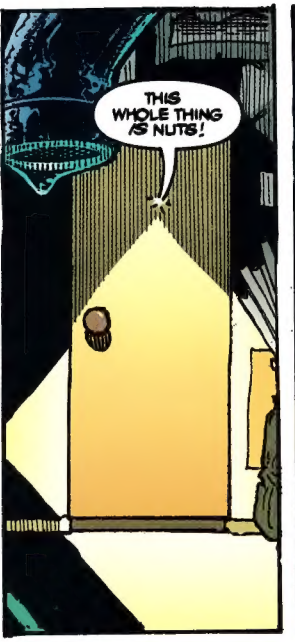
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR A STORY...
A STORY 'BOUT THE MAXX? OH, BOY!
IS THIS ONE GONNA MAKE SENSE?
THEY ALL MAKE SENSE.
AT LEAST TO ME.
ANYWAY, THE MAXX WAS RESTING ON THE VERDANT JUNGLE FLOOR OF THE OUTBACK, ALSO KNOWN AS PANGAEA, THE JUNGLE WORLD, WHEN A DICANT CAME SLINKING OVERHEAD...
A WHAT?
A DICANT! IT'S ONE OF THE MAJOR PREDATORS! WHAT DO THEY TEACH YOU KIDS IN SCHOOL?

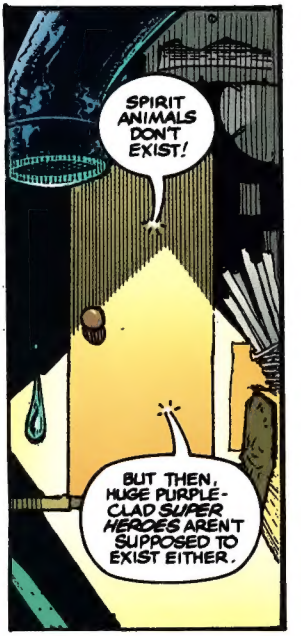
SUDDENLY, IT SPRANG!
ALL HE HAD FOR WARNING, WAS THE BURSTING OF A COUPLE OF PUFF-BLADDERS AND THAT PECULIAR ROARING COUGH THE DICANT HAS...
PRETTY DECENT ROAR, CONSIDERING IT HAS NO ANIMAL TISSUE TO WORK WITH.
HUH?
SURE. THE DICANT IS A PLANT. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT.


CHUNG! CHUNG!
DEATH.
ah.
ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY, MS. JULIE WINTERS IS ENJOYING HER MEMORIES.
I WISH MAXX WOULDN'T LEAVE THE SEAT UP.
THIS IS STILL THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO THINK.
AND I'VE GOT PLENTY TO THINK ABOUT, NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT'S UNDER THAT MASK!
I WONDER IF I'M NUTS OR IF HE REALLY IS MY SPIRIT ANIMAL?

AS A MUTATED PLANT, THE DICANT DOESN'T HAVE VITAL ORGANS. IT HAS SPINES FOR TEETH AND A TOUGH, RUBBERY SHELL WHICH STRETCHES INSTEAD OF BREAKING.
IT'S AS STRONG AS A PANTHER AND BRIGHT AS CLOVER, AND HAS BROCCOLI'S SPASMS OF KILLING RAGE!
THE MAXX SLASHED IT AGAIN...
AND AGAIN!
AND AGAIN!!
TO NO AVAIL.


CHUNG! CHUNG!
DEATH.
CHUNG! CHUNG!
CHUNG! CHUNG!
CHUNG! CHUNG!
CHUNG! CHUNG!
CHUNG! CHUNG!

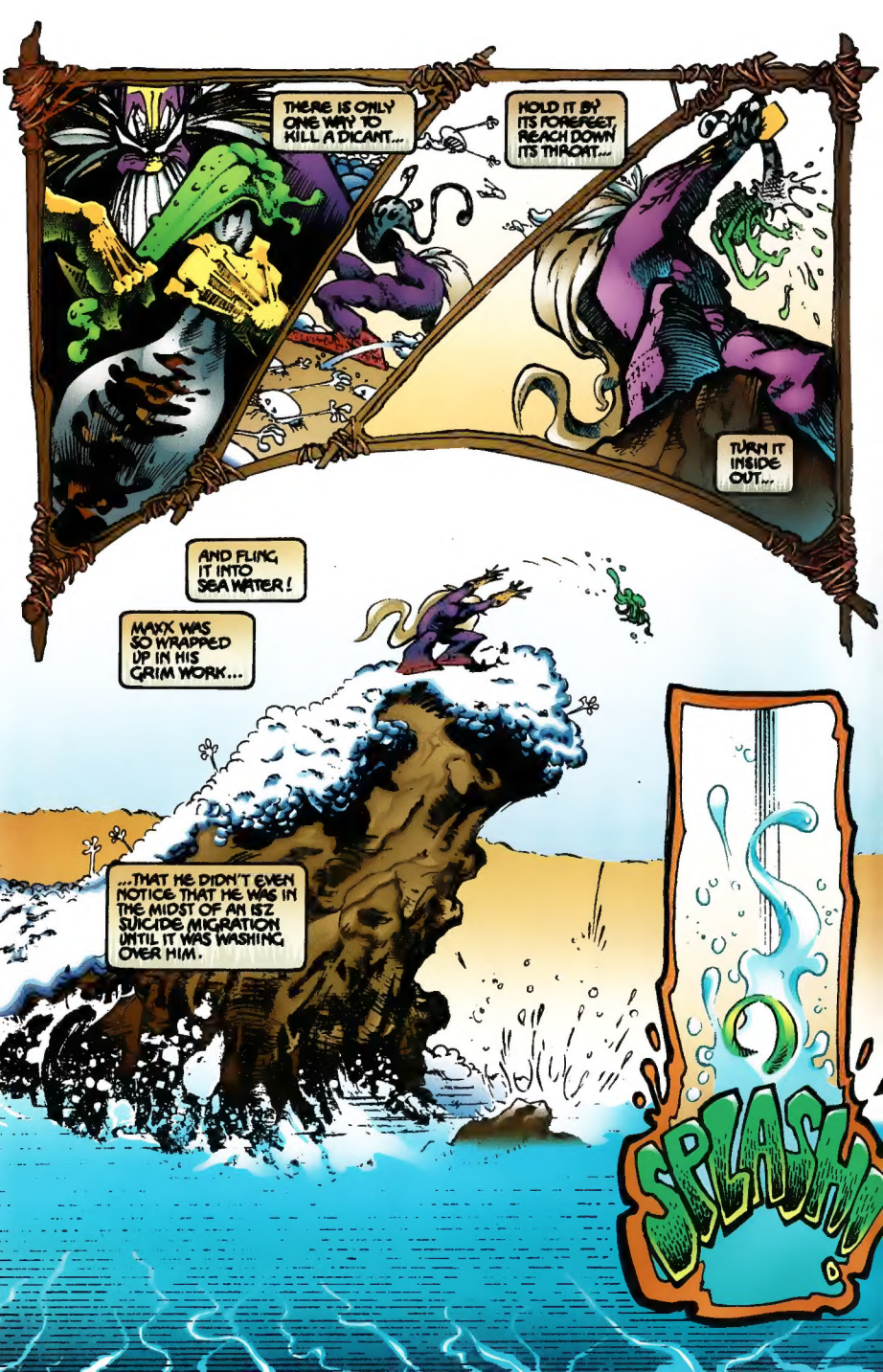

THIS WHOLE THING *IS* NUTS!


SPIRIT ANIMALS DON'T EXIST!
BUT THEN, HUGE PURPLE-CLAD *SUPER HEROES* AREN'T SUPPOSED TO EXIST EITHER.

AND I'VE BEEN TO THE *OUTBACK*. I'VE SEEN MAXX'S WEIRD WORLD FOR MYSELF.
THAT PSYCHOPATH MR. GONE IMPLIED I CREATED THE OUTBACK... THAT I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR *EVERY-THING*.

NO NO *NO*... THERE'S *GOT* TO BE A WAY OUT OF THIS! SOME WAY TO...

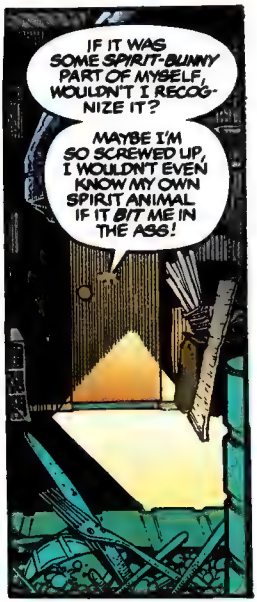
OH *GREAT!* THERE'S NO *PAPER!*


THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO KILL A DICANT...
HOLD IT BY ITS FOREFEET, REACH DOWN ITS THROAT...
TURN IT INSIDE OUT...
AND FLING IT INTO SEA WATER!
MAXX WAS SO WRAPPED UP IN HIS GRIM WORK...
...THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT HE WAS IN THE MIDST OF AN ISZ SUICIDE MIGRATION UNTIL IT WAS WASHING OVER HIM.
SPLASH

CHUNG CHUNG
DEATH.
CHUNG
CHUNG CHUNG
CHUNG CHUNG

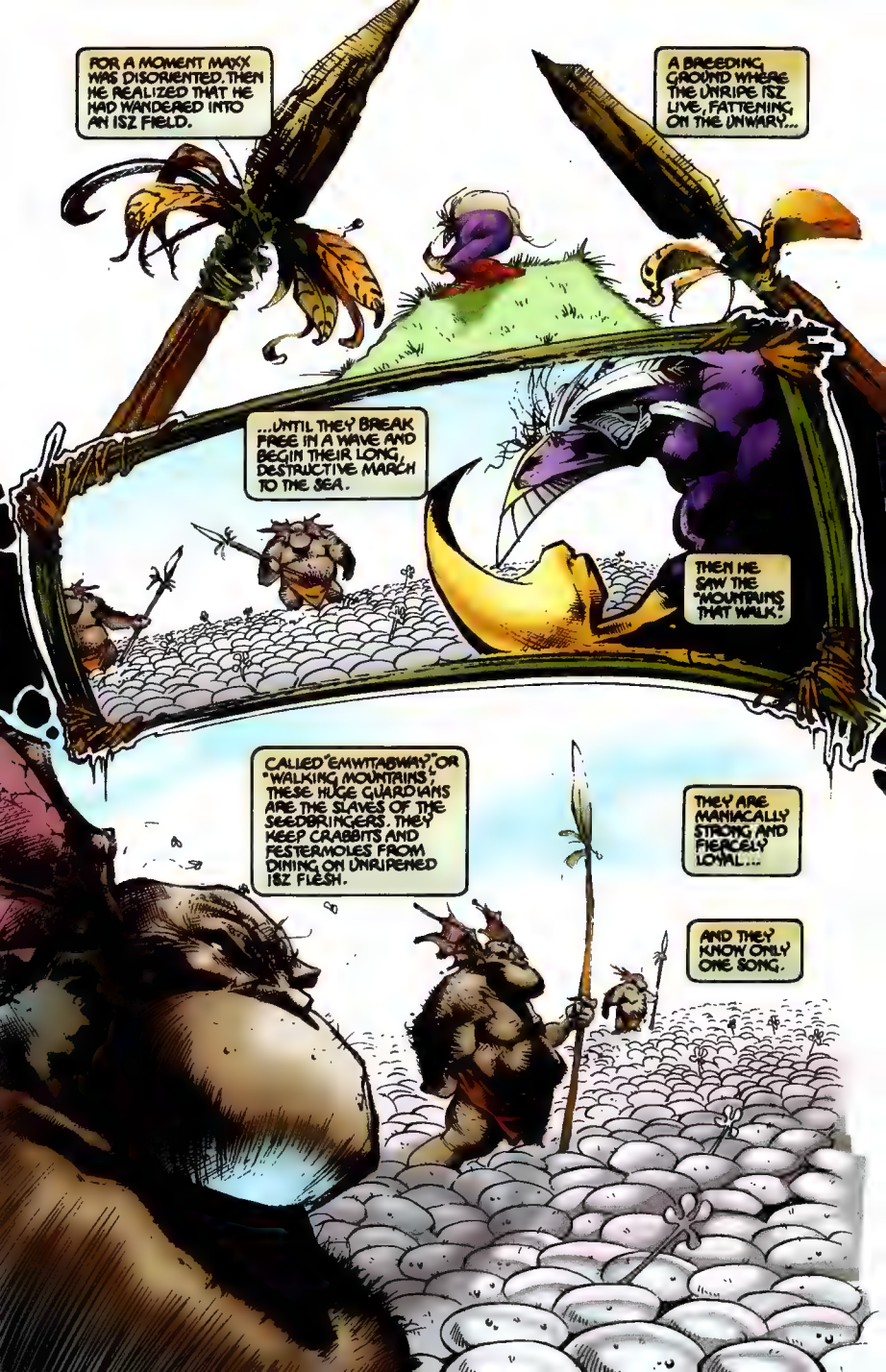
THAT THING I SAW BEHIND THE MASK WASN'T MAXX.
NOT THE MAXX I KNOW, ANYWAY.

BUT WHAT WAS IT?


IF IT WAS SOME SPIRIT-BUNNY PART OF MYSELF, WOULDN'T I RECOGNIZE IT?
MAYBE I'M SO SCREWED UP, I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW MY OWN SPIRIT ANIMAL IF IT BIT ME IN THE ASS!

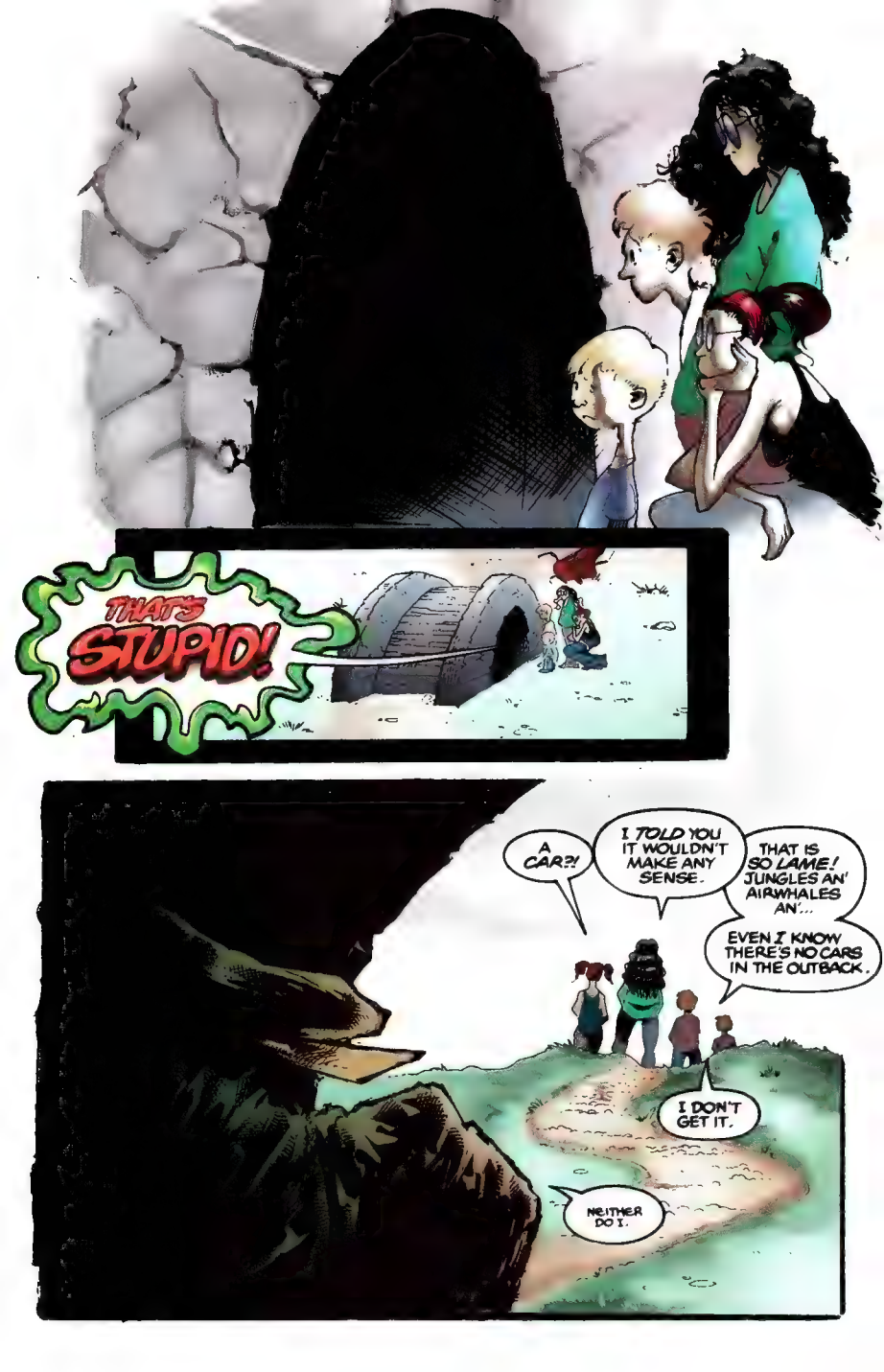
MAYBE I'M NOT SO SCREWED UP.
AND MAYBE THE TOILET PAPER SPIRIT WILL SHOW UP AND HAND ME SOME FRESH TOILET PAPER.

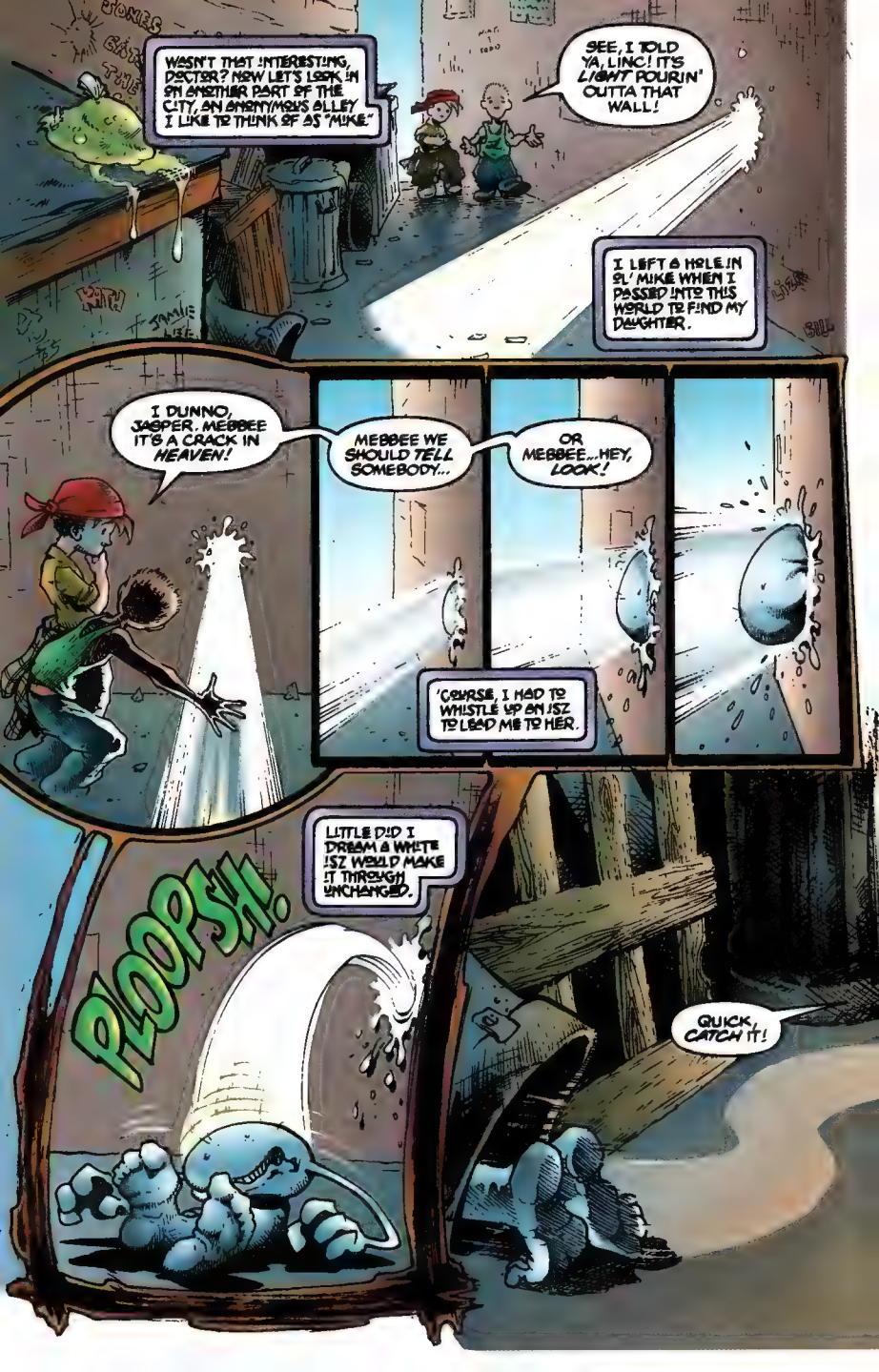
AAH, I PROBABLY DON'T EVEN HAVE A TOILET PAPER SPIRIT.


FOR A MOMENT MAXX WAS DISORIENTED. THEN HE REALIZED THAT HE HAD WANDERED INTO AN ISZ FIELD.
A BREEDING GROUND WHERE THE UNRIPE ISZ LIVE, FATTENING ON THE UNWARY...
...UNTIL THEY BREAK FREE IN A WAVE AND BEGIN THEIR LONG, DESTRUCTIVE MARCH TO THE SEA.
THEN HE SAW THE "MOUNTAINS THAT WALK."
CALLED "EMWITABWAY," OR "WALKING MOUNTAINS," THESE HUGE GUARDIANS ARE THE SLAVES OF THE SEEDBRINGERS. THEY KEEP CRABBITS AND FESTERMOLES FROM DINING ON UNRIPENED ISZ FLESH.
THEY ARE MANIACALLY STRONG AND FIERCELY LOYAL...
AND THEY KNOW ONLY ONE SONG.

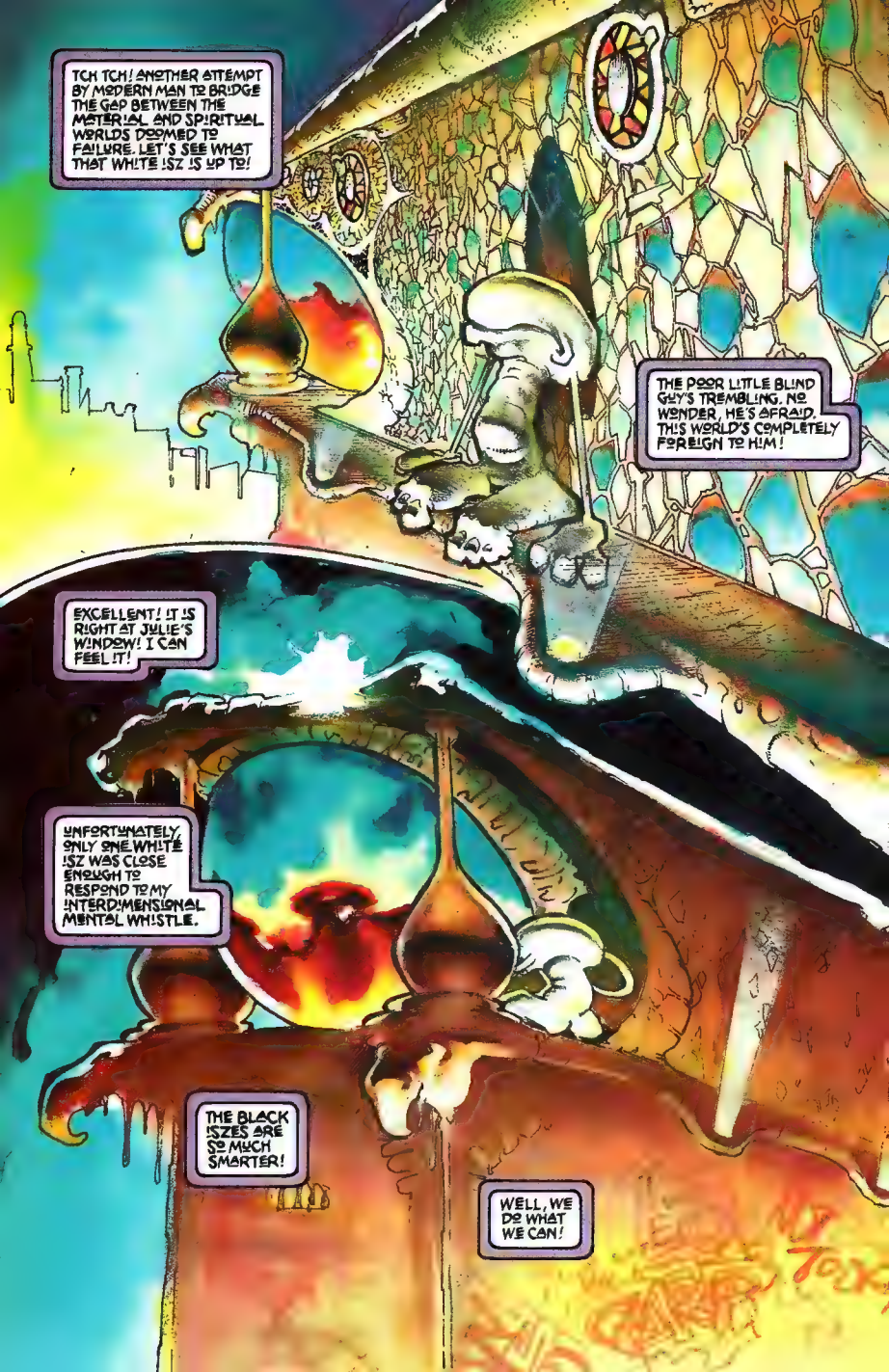
THANK GOD FOR PAPER TOWELS.
Y'KNOW... LEAVING ASIDE THIS BUNNY STUFF... WHAT DO I REALLY KNOW ABOUT THE REAL-LIFE MAXX?
PRACTICALLY NOTHING. HE'S A TOTAL MYSTERY. HE COULD BE A KILLER FOR ALL I KNOW.
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE HE'S DANGEROUS...BUT I DON'T TRUST MY INSTINCTS ANYMORE.
THE SAD THING IS THAT FROM THE MINUTE MAXX PUT THE MASK ON, I'VE BEEN CONFUSING HIM WITH ALL MY BUNNY STUFF.
GOD, OUR RELATIONSHIP IS SO TWISTED. I'M NOT SURE WE CAN EVER REALLY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE.
I GUESS IT'S JUST A BUST.
I DON'T LIKE WHERE THIS IS GOING...AND NEITHER WILL HE.

THE EMWTTABWA? TURNED TOWARDS HIM. THEIR EVERY MOVEMENT WAS RIPE WITH ANGER.
THEY WEREN'T SMART ENOUGH TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE EMOTION AT A TIME.
SUDDENLY, SOMETHING DROVE UP FROM UNDER THE ISZ AND PLOWED RIGHT AT THE MAXX.
THE ISZ FELL AWAY AND MAXX SAW IT CLEARLY.
HE WAS TRAPPED.
WHAT WAS IT?
WHAT HAPPENED?
WAS IT A GIANT SEUSSADON?
IT WAS A BUICK.


THAT'S STUPID!
A CAR?!
I TOLD YOU IT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
THAT IS SO LAME! JUNGLES AN' AIRWHALES AN'...
EVEN I KNOW THERE'S NO CARS IN THE OUTBACK.
I DON'T GET IT.
NEITHER DO I.


WASN'T THAT INTERESTING, DOCTOR? NOW LET'S LOOK IN ON ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, AN ANONYMOUS ALLEY I LIKE TO THINK OF AS "MIKE."
SEE, I TOLD YA, LINC! IT'S LIGHT POURIN' OUTTA THAT WALL!
I LEFT A HOLE IN SL' MIKE WHEN I PASSED INTO THIS WORLD TO FIND MY DAUGHTER.
I DUNNO, JASPER. MEBBEE IT'S A CRACK IN HEAVEN!
MEBBEE WE SHOULD TELL SOMEBODY...
OR MEBBEE... HEY, LOOK!
'COURSE, I HAD TO WHISTLE UP AN ISZ TO LEAD ME TO HER.
LITTLE DID I DREAM A WHITE ISZ WOULD MAKE IT THROUGH UNCHANGED.
PLOOPSH!
QUICK, CATCH IT!

YOU CATCH IT! WHAT WAS THAT THING?
WHO CARES? I'M GONNA SEE WHAT HEAVEN'S LIKE!
NOW DOC, I KIND OF FEEL BAD LYING TO MY DAUGHTER, BUT I LOVE THAT WACKY GIRL.
BRACE ME REAL GOOD.
SEE, THE HOLE'S STILL OPEN!
AND I COULDN'T LET HER SEE ME LIKE THIS, NOW COULD I? HEADLESS AN' ALL.
THE SHOCK ALONE WOULD PUT HER...
AW, NUTS!
I'M STUCK!
...OVER THE EDGE.

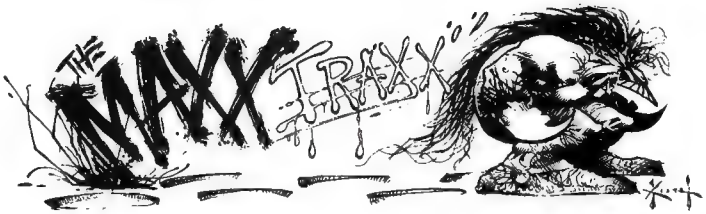

TCH TCH! ANOTHER ATTEMPT BY MODERN MAN TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL WORLDS DOOMED TO FAILURE. LET'S SEE WHAT THAT WHITE ISZ IS UP TO!
THE POOR LITTLE BLIND GUY'S TREMBLING. NO WONDER, HE'S AFRAID. THIS WORLD'S COMPLETELY FOREIGN TO HIM!
EXCELLENT! IT IS RIGHT AT JULIE'S WINDOW! I CAN FEEL IT!
UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY ONE WHITE ISZ WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO RESPOND TO MY INTERDIMENSIONAL MENTAL WHISTLE.
THE BLACK ISZES ARE SO MUCH SMARTER!
WELL, WE DO WHAT WE CAN!

NOTE THE WHITE ISH SPOTS UPON OUR HEROINE, AS MS. WINTERS IS ABOUT TO SAY...
EWWWW. THIS IS IT, ALL RIGHT. AND IT REALLY SMELLS PUTRID.
GEEZ. DID I BRING A CARTON OF FISH HOME AND FORGET TO REFRIGERATE IT? HOW STUPID.
Uh, JULIE. THERE'S SOMETHING I GOTTA TELL YOU...
HI, SARAH. WHAT'S UP?
WELL... SEE, THERE WAS THIS... CLAY...
YOU DIDN'T BUY A BIG BOX OF MEAT AND LEAVE IT HERE, DID YOU?
NO, OF COURSE NOT. WHY WOULD YOU? NEVER MIND.

LET'S CRACK THIS BABY OPEN AND LEARN THE BAD NEWS!
SEE, I WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT MY SPIRIT ANIMAL...
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, SARAH?
UHH...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT...

JULIE, WAIT! DON'T TOUCH IT!
IT'S SOME KINDA TRAP. I KNOW IT!
SARAH, HAVE YOU GONE BONKERS? I...
OOPS!
SPLAT
GOLLY...IT'S HORRIBLE!
IT'S DISGUSTING!
IT'S... IT'S... JUST MY...

...DAD.



James Dean Conklin did the cool Maxx pin-up last issue. He signed it, but it wasn't properly credited. Same for the wrap-around Maxx which was in that issue of Maxx Traxx and was done by Unggul Herlambang of Indonesia. Sorry, dudes! At the end of this column is a list of some of my work.

We get so many cool letters. Don't get downed if yours doesn't get printed—it's not like we just blow off the rest. Every letter is carefully read and considered. . .aw, hell—who's fooling who. It's pretty much a crapshoot as to which we pick! But we DO read every last one of those suckers (and you guys think I'M weird. . . .

Dear Sam Kieth,

I am a 13-year-old seventh grader who is now engaged in an industrial arts class. One of our first projects was a cutting board. When we were deciding what to engrave, and then paint, on the front of our cutting boards, I had a sudden great burst of inspiration. I decided to put THE MAXX's head on mine. Well, it wasn't such a great burst of inspiration. Kids in my class asked me if it was an alien or a pineapple. I tried to carefully explain what it really was to each person who asked. Nobody understood. Please print this letter so the kids in my class know that I'm not insane, about THE MAXX and all. I'm not insane, am I?

Well, even if it does look like a piece of fruit, I'm still proud of it!

A slightly confused fan,
(Alias) Joe Buck
Spanch, Minnesota

...A piece of fruit?

Dear Sam,

I am a major Image Comic Fan. My #1 favorite book is Spawn and my way cool mom's favorite book is MAXX. I read both of them and I noticed a few things about Spawn and Maxx—they both live in New York alleyways. So how come they've never met? It would be way cool if they came together either to fight or as friends.

Stay cool Sam!
Just another female fan,
Kore Clayton
Ashland, MO

P.S. This is to the "Very proud MALE MAXX fan" (from Issue #4): Man, you are one hell of a Dork. Get a life. (Sam: If you answer my letter, please say "Hi" to my mom. Her name is Kim.)

A Spawn-Maxx fight sounds cool to me. How about it, Spawnfolk? Hi, Kim. Hey—what a coincidence! My mom's favorite book is Maxx, too... I *think*....

Mr. Kieth,

After reading #7 and receiving a few hints, it seems that everything which occurs in THE MAXX is in fact in Julie's active subconsciousness! Isz are the focal point of the story because they represent sectors of her brain (grey matter?) that con-

tain her horrible memories of the past. Our friendly package of clay explains Maxx, the spirit friend (a materialistic form given to your consciousness? or perhaps human will power?) as a guide, a crusader if you will, who constantly battles the Isz to expose and come to terms with all the negative emotions built up in Julie's psyche. Mr. Gone thus represents the subconscious walls erected by Julie to block her tragic childhood. Every time Julie begins to remember, it's his job to close those doors until such a time that Julie is ready to handle the truth, which I assume deals with sexual and mental abuse she experienced at a very early age. Is that not why everything in her mind is very cartoonish, because these characters existing in her mind were created by her at such an early age?

Julie is her own enemy in this story; Julie has a war inside her head that she has developed solely on her own as she tries to understand and deal with emotions of the past the only way she knows how. Maxx is trying to help her remember, while Mr. Gone believes that if she remembers too soon it will cause a total backlash, shutting down her mind.

Anyway, I took a stab at it. Am I close or what?

Name withheld

Pretty close, but I think the next letter's even closer.

Dear Mr. Kieth,

My name is Karen Nguyen and I am 7 years old. I like THE MAXX because purple is my favorite color. I try to draw MAXX and I drew a picture at the bottom. My brother read Maxx #7 to me and I hope Maxx beats up Pitt. Maxx is my favorite character. I think those Isz are funny. I love THE MAXX and I hope he turns into a cartoon series.

Your fan,
Karen Nguyen
Fountain Valley, CA

So do I, but I'll probably screw it up (see indicia).

Dear Sam and Maxxheads,

I am "Name Withheld" from Maxx #3. I would just like to apologize for all that I have said. And by the way, my name's Tracer Fieldes.

Tracer Fieldes
Loveland, OH

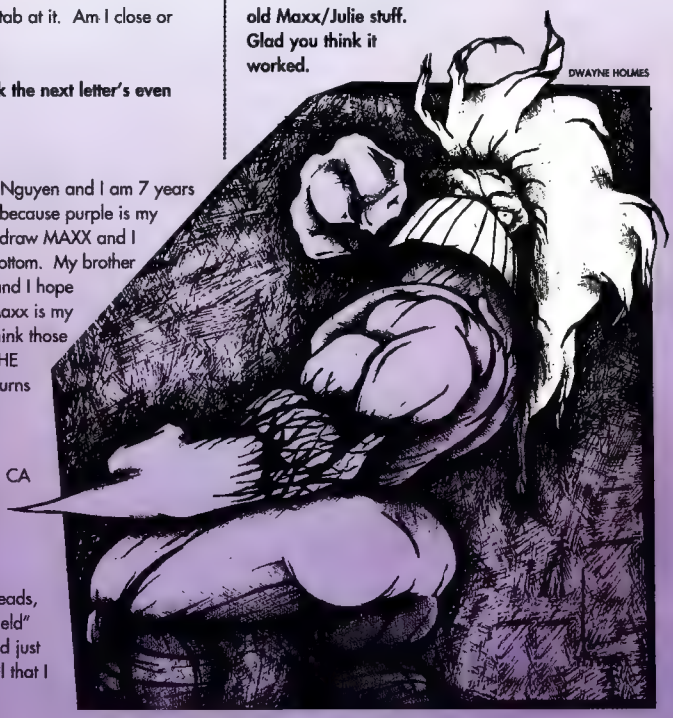
OK, now will everybody lighten up on this guy?

Yo Sam,

Maxx vs. Pitt is awesome!!! Before it came out, I was wondering how the heck you were going to have Maxx meet Pitt while still resolving Julie's emotional trials and tribulations. I was sure it was going to either futz the whole story up, or the next couple of issues would be a hiatus for the Julie storyline. But you managed to have cool sequences with Pitt, successfully continued Julie's saga, and featured one of my personal favorite characters, Sarah. I love Sarah; she reminds me of Sylvia Plath. I hope you realize you opened a whole new can of worms by introducing Sarah's spirit animal.

Take Hare,
Daniel (Screw-head) Wright
Ridgewood, NY

I was wondering about that too, how to bring Pitt in and still continue the same old Maxx/Julie stuff. Glad you think it worked.



The question has come up of whether Pitt or the Dragon will appear in the Maxx cartoon. That's up to Dale and Erik and whether they want to get sucked into it all. They have some of their own deals going.

About the cartoon: things are going pretty cool.

A lot of people working on the cartoon are there because they're Maxxheads as well as animators. I don't think there's ever been a cartoon that's going to be as close to the comic (maybe to the detriment of the cartoon!). Luckily, we're using most of Bill's original dialogue, so we can't screw it up too bad.

Mr. Kieth,

I remember hearing somewhere that you worked with Neil Gaiman. If so, why the Death-bashing in #4?

Hope to hear from you soon—ever,
Matt Tyler
Provo, UT

Death-bashing? Hey, come on—lighten up. If there's anybody who should be allowed to bash Death, it's me. You know how it's OK for you to pick on your little brother, but nobody else can? That's how I feel about the Sandman characters.

Yo, Mr. Maxx!

In view of the recent "Dinner with Todd McFarlane" contest, I think you should run a "Breakfast with Sam Kieth" contest! Think about it! Having someone at the mercy of your Pez and toast! Would it not be fiendishly delightful? Also please make a Maxx Pez dispenser. My friend Jay won't stop talking about it. Stop him, please!

Andy "Sleepy boy" Radzik
Mississauga, Ont.

Read on.

Dear Sam,

My name's Will and, for some bizarre and enigmatic reason, I love THE MAXX. And since I'm such a big MAXX-head (a great term), recently comments and questions have appeared in my mind that I have to voice on paper:

1. I've never seen Maxx eat. I mean, any decent person nowadays that you see on the street could easily tell you, "Why, THE MAXX would kill for Pez and toast." But, I haven't seen him eat either of those nutritious delicacies during the whole run of THE MAXX. And how can he eat without a lower jaw?
2. The characters in THE MAXX are utterly believable. I believe only The Sandman rivals your book in fantastic and believable characters.
3. So, now I gather that Mr. Gone is a wacked-out, tripping Beavis clone that talks through other people's heads. Uh-huh. (Give him back his noggin soon.)
4. I really love THE MAXX's bagels. Totally *casual*.
5. What kind of music does THE MAXX listen to? Henry Rollins? Bob Dylan? The Dead Milkmen? Just wondering intently.
6. To everyone writing in about THE MAXX's identity: please! THE MAXX is a hellacious rager with a hell of an overbite, long and pointed middle fingers, a feminist social worker '60's retro friend, and a billion and a half little black creatures with no eyes and a vocabulary almost completely limited to "Meep" after him. Doesn't that explain it?
7. Forgive my annoying inquisitiveness and hyper-criticism about identity letters, but... Sam?. . .is Maxx a bunny?

Adieu, people, don't be strangers and continue reading THE MAXX!

Will "Judge" Stenberg
Elk, CA

1. Say! I never <u>have</u> drawn Maxx eating toast or Pez, have I? I guess I can't quit after Ish #11, after all. I know—<u>Pez</u> and <u>toast</u> need their own trading cards! We can't use Pez, though, 'cause they own the rights. . . MTV producer John Andrews said he will try to get Pez to sponsor the Maxx cartoon.

Maybe if every single deranged Maxxhead wrote to Pez before the cartoon came out in November. . .naw. That'll never happen. Pez has too much dignity for that.

2. Gee—that sets new lows for <u>both</u> books.

3. Ok...

4. ?

5. Henry Rollins? Are you calling me A Liar?

6. Does for me.

7. Only in the outback. It's still anybody's guess what's under the mask on this side.

Sam,

What the hell was a candy cane doing in Julie's refrigerator?

Your confused fan,
Jonathan "Doffin" Grissom
Amory, MS

What do you have against candy canes?

Speaking of candy, I'd give my left nut for a kiss-up letter right here.

Dear Sam,

I think that THE MAXX is absolutely outstanding. Image has impressed me. They have managed to round up all of the best. Someone finally figured out how good you are and gave you the room you deserved. You are one of the greats, and I will continue buying THE MAXX because of the time, effort, and pure quality that you put in your work. You have created much of the joy I have derived from comics.

Well, enough kissin' up

If Julie had a tattoo, what would it say? "Nietzshe rules?" "Sex, drugs, and pet rocks?" Does she like the group, "Bad Company?" I do.

I know Maxx likes Pez and toast, but I think he should have more cultured tastes. How about French toast, collard greens, burritos, and toothpaste (minty)?

You kick *ss, stay cool.

Luke Katims
Vancouver, WA

JEREMY STOCKSLAGER

Dear Mr. Sam Kieth,

Tell me the truth. Is THE MAXX, you know, kinda like Thumper? I mean, think about it. You're not fooling anybody!

1. THE MAXX has big feet, so do rabbits.
2. THE MAXX has big teeth,... so do rabbits.
3. THE MAXX likes specific foods (toast and Pez). So do rabbits (carrots, lettuce).
4. Mr. Gone calls THE MAXX "Hopping Boy." Rabbits hop.
5. On the cover of THE MAXX #3, Maxx's claws look like ears—rabbit ears.
6. THE MAXX has strange dreams. So do rabbits (trust me, I've seen it).
7. THE MAXX is purple and yellow. Rabbits are... um... well, you get the idea.

Reland Boyce
Sayville, NY

I think this guys getting <u>really warm</u>. In fact, I'm getting really warm just thinking about it....

Dear Sam,

In THE MAXX #3, there is an <u>Is</u> catching a crabbit, so why did Mr. Gone say that Isz become meat-eaters when you bring them over? Aren't they meat-eaters on both sides?

Sincerely,
Jeremy Stockslager
Sherman, TX

Nothing in Pangaea has any meat in it. . .same as this comic. . .

Dear Mr. Sam,

I used to think that comic books sucked, but my older brother/good friend persuaded me to read MAXX #1, telling me that I could relate to Julie because of my little pot belly and stubby pits. Since then, I have read all of THE MAXX comic books I get my hands on, and I must say that I appreciate such realistic gore, colour, life, and bodies. Please keep up with THE MAXX series. Never stop, or I won't have anyone to relate to.

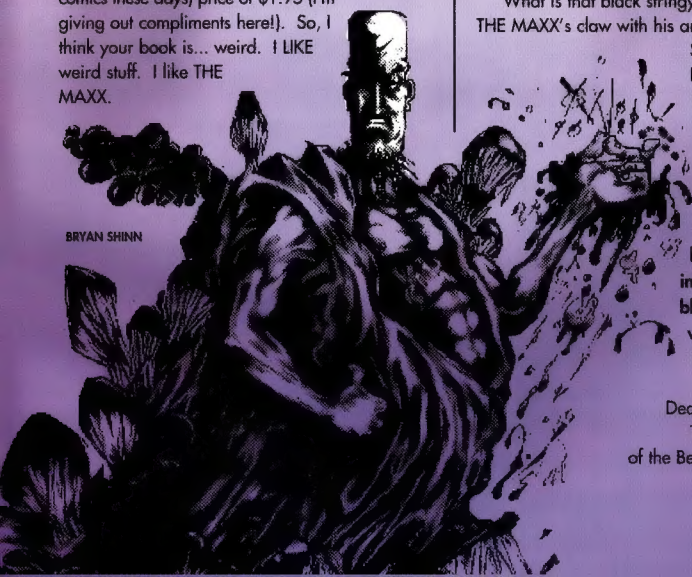
Mouse W.
California

P.S. Will there be a Pez dispenser?
C'mon, let loose.
P.P.S. Give Julie a navel ring.
Um. . .hmmm. . .

Sam,
You guys are sick and perverted... I LOVE IT! You guys rule!
Maxx fan,
Joe "I don't need a nickname with a cool name like Joe"
Haney
Norton, OH
See Indicia for response.

Dear Miss Julie,
Will you marry me?
Carpethead
Park Ridge, IL
To quote the great R. Crumb, "Hey folks, it's just lines on paper."

Dear Sam,
I have figured out THE MAXX's identity. I am expecting a Glow-in-the-Dark Maxx on my doorstep soon. And, because I'm a nice guy, I'm not going to keep all of you in suspense (No, you idiot, I'm not talking about your other selves, I'm talking about all the readers)! Your comic is just about my sixth favorite comic (you're tied with Bone). I have all of your issues, and, I'm happy to say, I don't regret paying the amazingly low (for comics these days) price of $1.95 (I'm giving out compliments here!). So, I think your book is... weird. I LIKE weird stuff. I like THE MAXX.



Because it's one a.m., I'm kinda tired.....2.a.m.....3a.m.....4a.m.....5a.m.....6a.m.....what, iz time fo' schoo'?.....9a.m.....Oh boy. That helped. Now, the time you've all been waiting for. . .the revealing of THE MAXX! But first—a game to keep you amused while I get my notes together:
THE PICK-THE-MAXX IDENTITY GAME!
Hey kids! Pick who YOU think is THE MAXX's identity:
1. Barney
2. Lobo
3. Sam's 19th self, the womarr side of him
4. The Pillsbury dough boy
5. The Tidy Bowl Man
6. Mr. Clean
7. Spawn's lost brother
8. Some total idiot thought up by that idiot Kieth

Got my notes together. He really is... Barney! Whoops! That's Wolverine's identity. He really is. . .a politician! That's right because is Issue #5, he removes his mask and seeds that were hidden fall out. The seeds represent money, the mask represents lies! So, lemme have the Glow-in-the-Dark Maxx.
Matt Barringer
Piedmont, CA
Uh-huh...

Dear Sam,
What is that black stringy mess that connects THE MAXX's claw with his arm?
Shachar Meron
Homewood, IL
It's either (a) splattered, dried lava from Maxx sticking his hands into a volcano, (b) a cool splatter effect (I just like the way India ink looks when it's blown across paper with a straw), or (c) both of the above.

Dear Kieth,
THE MAXX waz one of the Best Comics I read this

year! I like Maxx so much I drew him on school desks (three of them, and I didn't get caught, either).

So here are my questions.

1. Does Maxx have a hard time walking up stairs?
2. Is it hard for Maxx to get shoes?
3. Does it bother Maxx that his mask is feeding off his face?
4. If that is not hair, what is it?
5. Can I borrow a dollar?

Steven Oelschlager
Radcliff, KY

I. Not if he walks sideways.
2. Yes, he's had the same pair of shoes since he found the mask. Care to be there when he takes them off?
3. Sure. Wouldn't it bother you?
4. Hmm... let's see... What are those things that Indians wear... headdress. Yeah, that's it.
5. No.

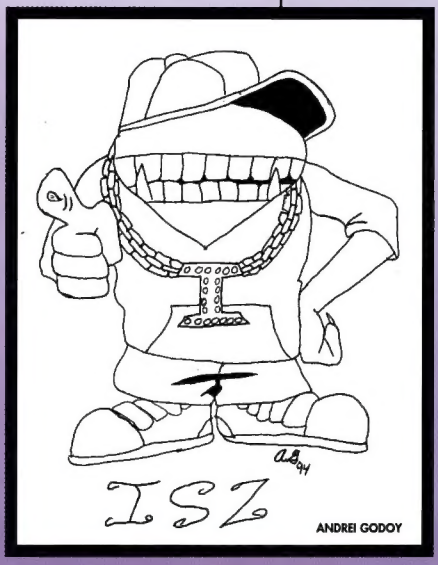
Dear Mr. Kieth,

I think I have finally figured out your comic book series, THE MAXX. Pangaea (or the Outback) is a dimension within Julie Winter's mind. THE MAXX is Julie's spirit animal, who protects her from some sort of childhood trauma. Sexual abuse at the hand of her father, perhaps? Mr Gone may be her father's dream-self.

THE MAXX is a hare modeled after Julie's pet bunny who died. As for the words formed by the panels in the comic, I have no idea what they spell. Pangaea maybe, or maybe bellbottoms, big feet, or Get a Life, Fanboy!

Sincerely,
James Dysart
Brainerd, Minnesota

This is a cool springboard for me to point out that Julie was not abused sexually as a child. There are a lot of other ways people can be abused. What we're trying to get at is the way other kinds of abuse made Julie feel inside.



Dear Sam,
Why telephone cords?
David Grossman
Albany, CA

Dear Sam,
Telephone cords....
I get it.
James Hillier
Sydney, Nova Scotia,
Canada

I swear to God I did not make these two letters up. They just came one after the other this way.

MOST OF THE STUFF DONE BY SAM KIETH

*** Check it out
** If it's on sale
* Never mind...

1983	*	Max the Hare	*Comico Primer* #5	Comico Comics
	*	Agatha Moore	*Amazing Comics* #5	Amazing Comics
1983-86	*	*Mage* #6-15 (inks over Matt Wagner)		Comico
1984	*	Frog	*Vortex* #12	Vortex Comics
1985	*	Journey Ad	*Journey* #14	Aardvark-Vanhm
	*	The Duel	*Journey* #20	Fantagraphics
	*	Wa-hooma!	*Stig's Inferno* #6	Eclipse Comics
	*	*Robotech, New Generation* (inks)		Comico
1986	*	Video	*Tales of Terror* #7	Eclipse
	*	Killing Time	*Death Rattle* #4	Kitchen Sink
	*	pin-ups	*J. Quest* #4, 9	Comico
	*	One of those	Abstract. . .*Anything Goes* #2	Comics Journal
1987	***	*The Wandering Stars*		Fantagraphics
	*	Rain Maker	*Death Rattle* #13	Kitchen Sink
	***	Losing... Is	*Critters* #7	Fantagraphics
	***	Da Grand Wa-zoo	*Critters* #11, 12	Fantagraphics
	*	Is cover	*Critters* #21	Fantagraphics
	*	back covers	*Spaced* #8, 13	Unbridld Ambitn
1988	*	*Adolescent Radioactive Black-Belt Hamsters* #6-9		Eclipse
	*	Bar Joke	*GrimJack* #43	First Comics
	*	*Target: Airboy* #1		Eclipse
	*	*Manhunter* #1-3		DC Comics
	*	*Sandman* #1-5		DC Comics
1989	*	Fairy Tale	*Manhunter* #12	DC Comics
	*	Batman: The Killing Peck	*Secret Origins Special* #1	DC Comics
	**	covers	*Nemesis* #1-12	Quality Comics
	***	*Epicurus the Sage I* (writer: Bill Loebs)		Piranha (DC)
1990	**	back cover	*Ntmare on Elm St.*	Marvel
	***	Natural Selectn	*Incredible Hulk* #368	Marvel
	*	*Aliens: Earth War* #1-4		Dark Horse
1991	**	*Epicurus the Sage II* (with Bill Loebs)		Piranha (DC)
	***	Wolverine: Blood Hungry	*Marvel Presents* #85-92	Marvel
		covers	*Marvel Presents*	Marvel
	**	front only: #85-89		
	**	front/back: #90-92, 94-100		
	*	back only: #93		
	*	*Marvel Comics Presents* #100		Marvel
	*	covers	*Amazing Heroes*	Fantagraphics
	*	cover	*Marvel Tales* #255	Marvel
	**	cover	*Wizard* #6	Wizard Press
	***	*I Before E* #1 (Collected early works)		Fantagraphics
1992	***	*I Before E* #2 (ditto)		Fantagraphics
	*	cover	*Strk Force America* #1-	Comico
	*	Devil's Brigade	*Hellraiser* #12	Epic

	* cover	*Lobo's Back* #3	DC
	* cover	*Detective Comics* #5	DC
	* cover	*Robin* #1	DC
	* covers	*Toxic Crusaders* 2,3,8	DC
1993	*** *The Maxx* #1/2		Wizard Press
	** *The Maxx* #1-6, Darker Image		Image Comics
1994	** *The Maxx* #7-		Image Comics

CARDS

1992 MARVEL UNIVERSE III (Marvel) — 4 cards in the set

1993 THE MAXX (Wizard) — two promotional cards

THE MAXX (Image) — *Darker Image* insert card

WILDSTORM (Homage) — 3 cards

STAR WARS GALAXY (Topps) — 2 cards

ZEN: INTERGALACTIC NINJA — 1 card

1994 THE MAXX (Topps) — full set and six foil-etched

BART SIMPSON (Bongo) — 1 card

MARS ATTACK (Topps) — 1 card

SHADOWHAWK (Image) — l card

TRAVIS HARPER